

# Byron L. Dorgan

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## **DORGAN SAYS HE IS APPALLED THAT BUREAU OF PRISONS ALLOWED "60 MINUTES" MCVEIGH INTERVIEW – WANTS REGULATIONS CHANGED TO BLOCK SIMILAR INTERVIEWS OF CONVICTED MURDERERS**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) criticized the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) Tuesday for permitting the CBS program "60 Minutes" to interview convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh on prime time national television. He said the program, which aired on Sunday evening, allowed McVeigh to advance his agenda of violence.

In a letter to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which has custody of McVeigh and controls access to him, Dorgan said he was "appalled that the Bureau of Prisons approved and helped arrange" the interview. Permitting it went "well beyond" what the Supreme Court has ruled is required to comply with McVeigh's free speech rights and news media free press rights regarding coverage of those within the federal prison system, Dorgan wrote. He asked the Bureau of Prisons to change its regulations, if necessary, to prevent similar prime time national TV interviews by convicted murders. He said he will introduce legislation to accomplish that if the Bureau of Prisons does not take such action on its own.

"In my judgement," Dorgan wrote FBOP Director Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, "when Mr. McVeigh was judged guilty and sentenced to death for murdering 168 innocent victims at the Oklahoma Federal Building, he lost his right to make appearances on prime time television shows. The American people have a right to expect that the incarceration of a convicted killer will not only remove him physically from society, but will also prevent him from further intrusion in our lives through television interviews and from using those forums to advance his agenda of violence."

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